

204 ESTIMATION OF SHELL IN COCOA AND CACAO PRODUCTS

THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND THE COCOA ORDER.

WE are informed that the Ministry of Food, in dealing with the position of manufacturers and retailers of cocoa powders, have written to Local Authorities in the following terms: "The question of the liability of the Retailer for sales of powder said to contain more than the prescribed percentage of cocoa-bean shell has lately been under consideration. In the opinion of the Ministry the retailer cannot be held responsible if he sells cocoa as of the kind invoiced to him, and it is not desirable that prosecutions should be instituted against retailers on the ground that the cocoa powder contains an excess of cocoa-bean shell. Under Article 2 (*a*) of the Order Grade B, Cocoa Powder shall be invoiced as such by the manufacturer, and

by Article 3, Grade A, Cocoa Powder must be packed in cartons and sold under the manufacturer's name or trade-mark. It is not desirable that, in the case of cocoa powder when sold by retail, any analysis should be attempted, as it is understood that such analysis is difficult, and the proper method of ensuring compliance with the Order regarding the percentage of cocoa-bean shell is to deal with the manufacturer. I am to say that this Ministry will take action from time to time to check the percentage of shell which manufacturers are putting into their Grade A and Grade B powders respectively."

The method of estimating shell in cocoa products is now receiving official consideration.

